

# ALABAMA



**YEAR STARTED CAPACITY-BUILDING:** 1993  
**YEAR STARTED COMPREHENSIVE:** 1996  
**TOTAL FUNDING THROUGH FY 1998:** \$4,599,892

## DISEASE BURDEN

### Breast Cancer

#### From 1991 to 1995...

- 3,312 Alabama women died from breast cancer.
- The average annual age-adjusted mortality rates for breast cancer per 100,000 women were:

	State	National
Overall	23.7	26.0
White	22.2	25.7
Black	29.6	31.5
Hispanic	-	15.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	-	11.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	11.8

Source: CDC National Center for Health Statistics, vital statistics data, underlying cause of death  
 Some data were excluded because there were 75,000 or fewer women in the denominator or 20 or fewer deaths in the numerator.

- The percent of women aged 50 and older reporting having a mammogram within the past 2 years:

	State	National
1992	59	56
1996	70	70

Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

#### In 1999, an estimated...

- 600 Alabama women will lose their lives to breast cancer.
- 2,500 new cases of female breast cancer will be diagnosed.

Source: American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts and Figures-1999*

### Cervical Cancer

#### From 1991 to 1995...

- 470 Alabama women died from cervical cancer.
- The average annual age-adjusted mortality rates for cervical cancer per 100,000 women were:

	State	National
Overall	3.4	2.8
White	2.5	2.5
Black	6.7	6.1
Hispanic	-	3.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	-	2.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	-	3.4

Source: CDC National Center for Health Statistics, vital statistics data, underlying cause of death  
 Some data were excluded because there were 75,000 or fewer women in the denominator or 20 or fewer deaths in the numerator.

- The percent of women aged 18 and older reporting having a Papanicolaou (Pap) test within the past 3 years:

	State	National
1992	83*	79*
1996	89	90

Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

\* Within the previous 2 years

#### In 1999, an estimated...

- 100 Alabama women will lose their lives to cervical cancer.<sup>†</sup>
- 200 new cases of cervical cancer will be diagnosed.

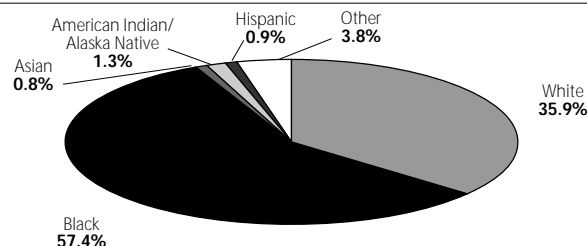
Source: American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts and Figures-1999*

<sup>†</sup>1998 data

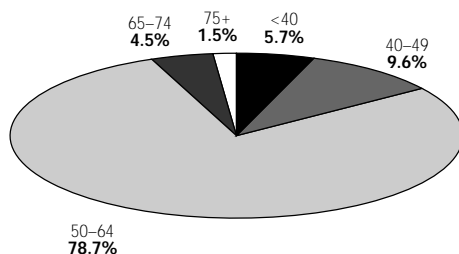
## CUMULATIVE MINIMUM DATA ELEMENTS

Percent Distribution of Mammograms Provided to Participants in the Alabama Program, by Race/Ethnicity and Age, through 1998

#### by Race/Ethnicity



#### by Age Group (Years)

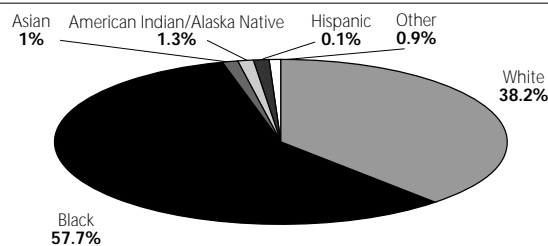


**Number of Mammograms** 2,117  
 given through the Alabama program as of September 30, 1998

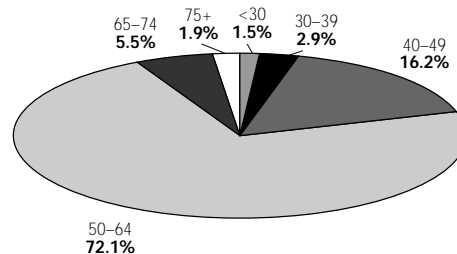
Source: Minimum Data Elements reported by state

Percent Distribution of Papanicolaou Tests Provided to Participants in the Alabama Program, by Race/Ethnicity and Age, through 1998

#### by Race/Ethnicity



#### by Age Group (Years)



**Number of Pap tests** 2,046  
 given through the Alabama program as of September 30, 1998

Source: Minimum Data Elements reported by state

## STATE LAWS AFFECTING BREAST CANCER

✓	✓						
Breast Cancer Screening and Education Programs	Reimbursement for Breast Cancer Screening	Reimbursement for Breast Reconstruction or Prosthesis	Accreditation of Facilities	Alternative Therapies	Reimbursement for Chemotherapy and/or Bone Marrow Transplants	Income Tax Checkoff for Breast Cancer Funds	Length of Stay/Inpatient Care Following Mastectomy

## 1997 SCREENING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Women must be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, uninsured, underinsured, and asymptomatic
- To be eligible for a mammogram, women must be aged 50 or older.
- To qualify for a Pap test, women must be at least 40 years of age.
- Women may be in-state residents or residents of a bordering state

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- Local efforts: newspaper and radio messages; posters; paid television advertising; bus, taxi, and commuter placards; close working relationship with community-based outreach programs, e.g., through churches

## 1996 INSURANCE COVERAGE (%) IN ALABAMA

	Uninsured	Insured			Total
		Private	Medicare	Medicaid	
Women age 20–64	19	71	4	10	85
Women age 40–64	13	77	7	8	92

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey

The percentage across categories may add to more than 100 because individuals may have had several sources of coverage during 1996.

## CONTACT

Cancer Branch, Alabama Department of Public Health  
Bureau of Health Promotion and Information  
201 Monroe Street, Suite 988  
PO Box 303017  
Montgomery, AL 36130-3017  
(334) 206-5535  
Fax (334) 206-5324

## HIGHLIGHTS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention funds Alabama's program for the early detection of breast and cervical cancers. The state began its capacity-building program in 1993. Three years later, in 1996, Alabama developed a comprehensive program. The state has received funds totaling \$4,599,892 through FY 1998.

From 1991 through 1995, 3,312 Alabama women died from breast cancer. The state's average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for breast cancer was 24 per 100,000 women, below the national median of 26 per 100,000 women. The mortality rate for black women in Alabama was 29.6 per 100,000 women. The percent of Alabama women age 50 or older who reported having had a mammogram within the past two years increased from 59 percent in 1992 to 70 percent in 1996. The American Cancer Society estimated that in 1998, there would be 2,500 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed and 600 deaths from breast cancer in Alabama women. From its inception through September 30, 1998, Alabama's program provided 2,117 mammograms.

Four hundred and seventy women in Alabama died from cervical cancer from 1991 to 1995. The average annual age-adjusted mortality rate for cervical cancer during this period was 3.4 per 100,000 women, which was above the national median of 2.8 per 100,000 women. The mortality rate for black women in Alabama was 6.7 per 100,000 women. In 1996, 89 percent of Alabama women aged 18 and older reported having had a Pap test within the past three years. In 1992, 83 percent of the state's women age 18 and older reported having had a Pap test in the previous two years. The American Cancer Society estimated that in 1999, there would be 200 new cases of cervical cancer diagnosed. In 1998, 100 deaths occurred from cervical cancer in Alabama women. From its inception through September 30, 1998, Alabama's program provided 2,046 Pap tests.

Alabama does legislate reimbursement for breast cancer screening. The state also supports breast cancer screening and education programs. While virtually all women age and older have insurance coverage through Medicare, 19 percent of women between the ages of 20 and 64 are uninsured. In order to qualify for screening funded by the program in 1997, women in Alabama had to be at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. In addition, 1997 guidelines specified that women had to be at least 50 years of age for a mammogram and 40 or older for a Pap test. Alabama's public education and outreach efforts include newspaper, radio, and television (PSA) messages; the 1-800-4-CANCER toll free number on PSAs and outreach materials; church-based presentations; culturally-specific brochures; flyers; referral hotlines; and posters. Other initiatives include working closely with community-based outreach programs and organizations; paid television advertising; and bus, commuter, and taxi placards.

Native American women from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians are served under the NBCCEDP through a separate CDC-funded tribal program.